

WHAT IS THE TANZANIA GOVERNANCE NOTICEBOARD?

The Noticeboard's overall objective is to collect, process and present information relevant to the strengthening of accountability, transparency and integrity in Tanzania. This should empower stakeholders to participate in governance issues for local authorities and other public service providers. The aim is to present this information in an easily accessible manner that is useful to stakeholders from all sections of society.

This is the first brief in the series from the Tanzania Governance Noticeboard. We will be regularly producing short briefs on specific issues as we progress.

What Will the Tanzania Governance Noticeboard be Doing?

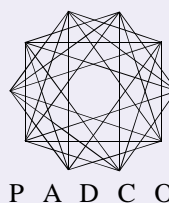
The main activities are:

- Collecting data on strategic issues, and developing a database;
- Have this information available through REPOA's website and printed material, including project briefs;
- Training stakeholders on how to access and use the data presented on the Noticeboard; and
- Supporting CSOs and media to develop and implement tools and methodologies for improving transparency and community oversight at the district and village level.

Why a Database and Why Have this on the Internet?

The database will be a compilation of material drawn mainly from official government data. We will collate the information in a manner that makes it easily accessible and understandable. Users will be able to make comparisons across sectors and districts and track developments over time. Working from the on-line database, users will be able to produce their own table of data showing information that is relevant and meaningful to them.

We are currently working on entering and cross-checking data; so keep checking our website for the first data release. This will include key data from the Auditor General's reports for the last seven years, as well as budget data for ministries and local authorities.



Training and Networking Activities

Training will be provided to stakeholders such as representatives of civil society organisations (CSOs), media and parliamentarians on how to use the information posted on the Noticeboard. The project will also support initiatives within civil society organisations to develop methodologies for expenditure tracking, perform budget monitoring and improve access to information at the local level.

What is the Reason for the Noticeboard?

The Government of Tanzania has put in place a wide range of mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the National Strategy of Growth and Reduction of Poverty (NSGRP). This includes the Poverty Monitoring System, the Public Expenditure Review/Medium Term Expenditure Framework (PER/MTEF) process, and Planrep under President's Office – Regional Administration and Local Government. These, as well as other routine and ad-hoc monitoring systems, produce large amounts of data that would aid effective monitoring of public services, if this data was readily accessible for all stakeholders.

As is recognised by the NSGRP, there is a need for monitoring and oversight to go beyond the formal control mechanisms of central and local government. Studies on what works and what doesn't in terms of ensuring accountability at the local level point to the importance of enabling stakeholders to hold service providers accountable. CSOs should be able to perform targeted expenditure tracking studies, monitor budgets and seek to ensure access to information at all levels of government. This can empower public service users to closely monitor public expenditure and the actual public services provided; thereby holding service providers accountable.

Who is Working on the Tanzania Governance Noticeboard?

REPOA's partner in this project is PADCO Inc (Planning and Collaborative International), (www.padcoinc.com), a U.S.A. based institution. USAID is funding the Noticeboard's activities. Geir Sundet, a consultant from PADCO Inc, is working with REPOA on this project.

Contact and Further Information

If you would like to be placed on our mailing list to receive the project briefs of the Tanzania Governance Noticeboard then please contact REPOA.

We will be sending email updates about new data available on the database and activities at the national and local level. If you wish to receive these updates please send an email to repoa@repoa.or.tz.

Also, if your organisation has conducted, is doing or plans to do activities within the area of budget monitoring, please contact REPOA. We are creating a forum for sharing information and experiences.

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HOW AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAVE PERFORMED- TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL'S CORRUPTION PERCEPTION INDEX

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By Geir Sundet (geir.sundet@repa.or.tz)

Since it was first released in 1995, the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) of **Transparency International** (TI) has become the world's most popular tool for measuring the extent of corruption. The 2004 CPI covers 146 countries. For the fifth year running, Finland tops the list as the least corrupt country in the world. At the other end of the scale, Bangladesh occupies the bottom spot as the most corrupt of the surveyed countries for the fourth year running, where it is joined by new entrant Haiti. Immediately above them, at the 144th spot, Nigeria still ranks as the most corrupt of the African nations surveyed. **Tanzania** clocks in at number 90, a position it shares with Gambia, Malawi, Mozambique, India, Nepal and Russia. Tanzania's score of 2.8 is slightly up from last year's CPI score of 2.5.

The CPI is 'a survey of surveys' and bases its scores and rankings on the findings of 18 surveys produced by 12 different institutions. Only countries that are covered by at least 3 surveys are included in the index. The surveys are derived from a variety of sources, and reflect the perceptions of business people, country analysts and surveyed country residents. It is relevant to note that there is a high level of correlation between the perceptions of expatriate country analysts and surveyed residents. The scores are on a scale from 1 to 10. 1 indicates a highly corrupt society; 10 a society that is virtually corruption free. The rankings in the table below show each country's relative ranking on the complete index of 146 countries.

One needs to be careful not to read too much into year-to-year changes, as scores are affected by changes in sample and methodology. Still, longer-term trends may indicate significant developments in the level of corruption in any given country. Consideration of the historical data becomes particularly interesting when comparisons are made. Only 17 African countries have been included in all the indices from 1998 to 2004, as shown in the table provided. Of these, Namibia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Ivory Coast have all dropped more than a whole point from 1998 to 2004, implying a significant increase in the level of corruption in these countries. It may also be relevant to note that South Africa, Mauritius and Zambia have dropped more than half a point in the same period, which suggests that corruption may have worsened over the last six years.

During the same period, no countries have improved by more than one point. **Tanzania** records the biggest improvement of the African countries, with 0.9 points. However, it is relevant to note that after the big improvement recorded in 2000 from 1.9 to 2.5, the score seems to have levelled off, implying that the level of corruption has not changed much in the most recent years. Aside

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from Tanzania, only Cameroon has recorded an improvement by more than half a point of the African countries; from 1.4 in 1998 to 2.1 in 2004.

At the bottom of Table 1 the yearly average is calculated for the 17 countries. Despite our caution above to avoid reading too much into year-to-year comparisons, one is struck by the decline in the average score recorded, being from 3.6 in 1998 to 3.2 in 2004. At the very least, it seems fairly safe to conclude that there is little sign that corruption is becoming less severe in Africa. This is food for thought, as a large majority of the 17 countries have instituted anti-corruption strategies during the same period and donor programmes have included substantial anti-corruption portfolios.

Table 1: Africa and the CPI: 1998 - 2004

Position out of 146 Countries	2004 Country Score	2003 CPI Score	2002 CPI Score	2001 CPI Score	2000 CPI Score	1999 CPI Score	1998 CPI Score	1997 CPI
31	Botswana	6.0	5.7	6.4	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.1
39	Tunisia	5.0	4.9	4.8	5.3	5.2	5.0	5.0
44	South Africa	4.6	4.4	4.8	4.8	5.0	5.0	5.2
54	Mauritius	4.1	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.7	4.9	5.0
54	Namibia	4.1	4.7	5.7	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3
64	Ghana	3.6	3.3	3.9	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.3
77	Egypt	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.1	3.3	2.9
85	Senegal	3.0	3.2	3.1	2.9	3.5	3.4	3.3
90	Malawi	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.2	4.1	4.1	4.1
90	Tanzania	2.8	2.5	2.7	2.2	2.5	1.9	1.9
102	Uganda	2.1	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.5
102	Zambia	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.6	3.4	3.5	3.5
114	Zimbabwe	2.3	2.3	2.7	2.9	3.0	4.1	4.2
129	Cameroon	2.1	1.8	2.2	2.0	2.0	1.5	1.4
129	Kenya	2.1	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.5
133	Ivory Coast	2.0	2.1	2.7	2.4	2.7	2.6	3.1
144	Nigeria	1.6	1.4	1.6	1.0	1.2	1.6	1.9
Average for the African countries included in all indices 1998 - 2004		3.2	3.1	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.6

Source: Transparency International's Corruption Perception Indices for 1998 – 2004

For further information go to: www.transparency.org or www.icgg.org (Averages calculated by author).